(b) whether it is also a fact that most these airstrips are not maintained by Government and that a number of encroachments are taking place there; and

(c) if so, the details of such airstrips and the steps taken by Government to maintain them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The airstrip at Passighat belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI) where no encroachment has so far been reported. The airstrips at Along, Daparizo, Tezu and Zero belong to the State Government where AAI maintains civil air terminals and Indian Air Force (IAF) provides air traffic services. Presently, Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. (PHHL) is operating helicopter services through Along, Daparizo and Zero airstrips. Passighat and Tezu airstrips are presently non-operational.

Purchase of spares for Aircrafts of Indian Airlines/Alliance

2583. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late, many aircafts of Indian Airlines and its subsidiary Alliance have been grounded and if so, the number of aircrafts so grounded;

(b) whether many of the grounded aircrafts need repairs and fitment of new spare parts apart from periodic overhauling and if so, whether the Indian and Alliance are in the process of purchasing spares for the grounded planes; and

(c) if not, whether this delay in procurement of spares is a deliberate act to effect savings on spares purchase and thereby inflate the bottom lines of the carriers in balance sheets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PARFUL PATEL): (a) Presently, 10 A-320, 1 A-300 and 1 Dornier DO228 aircraft of Indian Airlines and 3 B-737 and 1 ATR-42 aircraft of Alliance Air are grounded.

(b) Only 1 B-737 aircraft operated by Alliance Air is grounded for unscheduled maintenance at Delhi and is awaiting repair kit from

M/s. Boeing Company, USA. Remaining aircrafts are grounded for want of engines/ scheduled maintenance.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of female crew members

2584. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government air carriers are facing shortage of female crew members;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether it is also a fact that there was a proposal to appoint crew members region wise to facilitate regional based passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Revision of salaries to pilots

2585. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilots who have left Indian Airlines, Air India and Alliance Airways during the last three years on account of payment of less salaries in comparison with the private airlines; and

(b) whether Government have now decided to increase the salary and other perks of pilots in order to arrest flow of experienced pilots from these undertakings and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The number of pilots who have resigned from the public sector airlines during the last three years are as follows:—